The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Great minds alone are excited by the prospect of distant good. —Schiller.

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## "Cannonism" Is Revived In House; Committees Can Bury Legislation

Washington, Dec. 12.—The convening of congress on Monday, December 7, was marked by two distinct policies by the administration party in the house and senate. In the latter body every effort was made to placate independents within its ranks, while in the house bricks were substituted for boquets.

Immediately following the election of Mr. Longworth as speaker, the house majority jammed through a resolution that re-establishes Cannonism and makes it possible for committees to "bury" legislation distasteful to the administration.

At the last session of congress the house adopted a resolution that made it possible for 150 members to take legislation out of the hands of a committee and bring it on the floor of the house for action. This has been repealed by the new house in a resolution which provides that 218 signatures—a majority of the house—is necessary to take a bill from a committee. These signatures must be forthcoming three times and then only with the result of putting on the calendar the measure to be taken from a committee. When on the calendar the bill is subject to all sorts of parliamentary jockeying.

The return to the rule when Joe Cannon was speaker was not secured without a fight, as it passed by a majority of only 12 votes, 22 Republicans and five independents joining with the minority party in opposition.

The resolution was voted on before committees were announced. It is stated that fear of being ignored on committee assignments held enough members in line to pass the "Cannon" resolution.

As a switch of six votes would defeat the resolution, it is quite possible that the combined minority may reopen the fight.

## CHICAGO GUNMEN HANDLED GENTLY; THUGS CHUMMY WITH PROSECUTOR

Chicago, Dec. 12.—Coroner Oscar Wolff charges State's Attorney Crowe with "the real responsibility for this reign of murder and lawlessness." Crowe is specifically charged with obstructing the coroner's inquiry of the killing of two gunmen.

Former Judge Welch, who headed the inquest juries, corroborated the coroner's charge. Judge Welch names two of Crowe's assistants who urged the coroner to "soft pedal" each inquiry, "to not spoil our strategy."

"We were told pleasantly and plausibly, but none the less unmistakably, that the state's attorney didn't want any extended investigation by us or questioning of witnesses in either case," said Judge Welsh.

"But we learned that both the O'Banion and the Genna gangs had been among the strongest supporters of State's Attorney Crowe in his campaign for reelection, just before that murder.

Corner Wolff exhibited a photograph of a banquet tendered to Crowe, last year, in which the leader of the Genna gang sat at the speaker's table with Crowe, as were several other gunmen, who have since been killed by rival factions.

"Why wouldn't the Gennas and the others who were there think they are 'all right' with the state's attorney that they were so anxious to put him back into office?" asked the coroner.

The state's attorney talks continuously on law and order. He has made a reputation for sending trade unionists to jail, and has resorted to "frame-ups" to secure their conviction.

## AMERICA IS LAGGARD IN SCIENTIFIC LORE

New York, Dec. 12.—"This country lags behind a majority of European nations in fundamental scientific knowledge," said Secretary of Commerce Hoover at the annual meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

"A list of the awards of the Nobel prizes to men of various nationalities reveals the small proportion of first minds that we support," said Mr. Hoover. "Other tests lead to the same conclusion, namely, that the number of first-rank investigators in the United States is far below what our population, education and wealth would lead one to expect."

The reason for this condition, the speaker said, "results partly from the fact that American civilization is only beginning to emerge from the pioneering stage, and partly from the financial and other inducements which so often lead talented men reluctantly to accept well-paid industrial positions instead of poorly-paid academic and research posts.

"Not only is our nation to-day greatly deficient in the number of men and equipment for this patient groping for the source of fundamental truth and natural law, but the sudden growth of industrial laboratories has in itself endangered pure science research by drafting the personnel of pure science into their ranks, depleting at the same time not only our fundamental research staff but also our university faculties, and thus to some degree drying the stream of creative men at the source. Thus applied science itself will dry up unless we maintain the source of pure science.

"The day is gone when we can depend very much upon consequential discovery or invention being made by the genius in the garret. A host of men, great equipment, long, patient, scientific experiment to build up the structure of knowledge, not stone by stone but grain by grain, is to-day the fundamental source of invention and discovery."

## GEORGIA WILL PROBE TORTURE CHARGES

Atlanta, Dec. 12.—A special legislative committee will investigate alleged inhuman punishment of prisoners in certain Georgia convict camps. The majority of these camps are located in the northern part of the state. They have been severely criticized in the past several months. A subcommittee of the house and senate has investigated the camps and reported that stocks, sweatboxes and other "extreme devices" are used. The camps will be investigated again.

### HIGH PROFITS IN COAL

Washington, Dec. 12.—Coal dealers in this city are making a 50 per cent profit," said F. H. Newell, consulting engineer and economist.

He said that the production of bituminous coal is the largest in recent years, but coal prices in Washington have jumped from $8.81 to over $15 a ton.

"It costs $6.50 a ton for actual mining, plus $2.44 freight from the coal centers to Washington," he said. "Local dealers are buying this coal at about $9.94 a gross ton and sell it for $15 to $16 delivered."

### BANS STATE GAS SALES

Pierre, S. Dak., Dec. 12.—The state supreme court has issued an order that permanently prohibits this state from continuing in the retail gasoline business. The order was asked by an oil company.

## ITALIAN DICTATOR HAS TROTSKY PLAN

New York, Dec. 12.—The order of Mussolini, Italian dictator, that Italians in foreign countries establish recreational centers has stirred former Italian subjects who live in the United States. Mussolini plans to encourage sports and to "promote effective Italian cultural propaganda."

One prominent Italian in this city declared that "if the intention is to retain a hold on Italians now here to make their home, the effort will be useless."

"Plainly, this looks like centers of Fascist gospel," says the New York World. "The dictator has already hinted that Italians abroad should seek the ballot and so be in a position to influence elections in favor of Italy. He has had a law drafted to extend his penalties abroad by confiscating the Italian property of any emigrant who dares to speak or write against Fascisti rule. Last summer his friend, Count Cippico, intimated at Williamstown that Italy should have the right to send her surplus population abroad in masses, and to retain a hold upon its allegiance after it got abroad. Fascism, in short, ought to stride through the United States, Argentina, Brazil, the Levant and other regions, scattering its benefits broadcast.

"The ingenious premier may find it hard to believe that nations like the United States allow the idea of a double allegiance. But he should certainly realize that his activities abroad begin to bear a certain resemblance to the undertaking of Lenin and Zinoviev with the internationale."

## CAN FORCE YARD MEN TO WORK LONG HOURS

Washington, Dec. 12.—If the work of an employe engaged in the movement of trains does not require "mental and excessive strain," he may be worked as many hours as the management sees fit.

This is practically the position of the United States supreme court in setting aside a $600 fine on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad. The railroad was found guilty of working two yardmasters 12 hours each in its Chicago yards.

The duties of these workers include telephoning to a train when their trains were due, the Santa Fe tracks.

The lower courts held that the Santa Fe violated the 16 hour-a-day-of-service act, which provides that any employe engaged in the movement of trains shall not be employed more than 16 hours in any 24-hour period.

The supreme court ruled that the yardmasters' duties do not fall within the meaning of the act, the purpose of which is to promote safety in operating trains by preventing excessive mental and physical strain which usually results from remaining too long at an exacting task.

### FIRE FIGHTERS WIN

Atlanta, Dec. 12.—By a two-to-one referendum vote, organized fire fighters secured a minimum salary rate of $175 a month. The fire fighters are affiliated to the Federation of Trades and were supported by the trade union movement.

## HYPOCRITICAL PLEA BY PROGRAM MAKERS

New York, Dec. 12.—The plea of revolutionary program makers for "workers' unity throughout the world" is ridiculed by Justice, official magazine of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union. The editor calls this term "glittering nonsense" and "a hypocritical plea."

"As a point on the program of our union, this idealistic pronouncement is naive if not worse," says the labor publication.

"It appears to us that before attempting to achieve unity the world over we should make an effort to attain harmony in our own ranks.

"This yearning for 'workers' unity all over the world' sounds sanctimonious and hypocritical, as we recall the methods used by promoters of this 'unity' idea in the recent internal outbreak in our union. These methods were designed to tout out every shred of solidarity and break down labor unity in thought and action.

"This 'unity' slogan is a catchphrase intended for a certain element in our midst who are in the habit of swallowing every high-sounding benediction handed to them from above. But we fail to see what room there could be found for it at a trade union convention where men and women gather to discuss serious problems of their industry and its work conditions and not to toy with glittering nonsense."

## Weary Workers Tax On Industry

New York, Dec. 12.—Mistakes by over-tired workers constitute one of the great losses in industry, according to a report submitted to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

"It is being realized more and more," said the report, "that one of our greatest industrial wastes is the waste of human man power, and that unnecessary fatigue is one of the principal factors in causing this fatigue.

"It would seem that there is no scientific and experimental research that could be taken up by industry that would be so profitable and far-reaching in its results as one on industrial fatigue."

## ALLEGED REPUBLICS RULED BY DICTATORS

Washington, Dec. 12.—Five so-called "republics" below the Rio Grande are controlled by dictators who deny every right to workers, according to information received by the Pan-American Federation of Labor. The countries are Nicaragua, Guatemala, Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia.

"These nations have lost their constitutional form of government through military rebellions and high political treachery," said Santiago Iglesias, Spanish-language secretary of the federation.

"Reports to this office," said Mr. Iglesias, "urge that the state department at Washington inform Wall street financiers who are connected with the politicians and militarists of these countries that no sympathy can be expected from the state department in these attacks on constitutional government."

## DISCUSS "HIGH" WAGES BUT NOT HIGH PROFITS

New York, Dec. 12.—Financial interests will thank anyone to tell them how the present record of cash dividends and stock dividends can be continued without labor pointing to this as justifying higher wages are justified.

Figures of 63 representative industrial corporations in this country show net earnings for the third quarter of this year were nearly double. They amounted to $122,058,249, after all deductions were made, but before dividends were paid, as compared to $61,544,121 in 1924, or an increase of 98.3 per cent.

Profits are rolling up like a snowball, and every bond issue is quickly oversubscribed by those who seek to put their surplus "to work."

These funds are loaned at low rates to Wall street speculators, who have boosted the stock market. When the structure gets topheavy, interest rates are increased, and the lambs who would get rich overnight are squeezed. The interest rates are then lowered and the process is repeated.

The amount of idle capital is the largest in the history of the country, but this is not generally understood. It would embarrass those who tell us that "captains of industry" are placing their money in tax-exempt bonds, and that these bonds make it impossible to interest investors in industry.

Parallel with these mounting profits is increased living costs and the fear of an era of inflation that will reduce the purchasing power of the dollar, and thus send prices still higher.

The workers are gently "shooed" away from this subject while propagandists assure them everyone is employed and that wages have reached their highest point. No mention is made of profits, which seem to have only started on their record climb.

## ARE THE "TRUSTEES" CHEATING?

Certain business men who control natural resources like to assure the public that they are "merely trustees for property interests that have been placed in their care," and that their only aim is to serve the dear people.

This is intended to be the last word, the final alibi, when other defenses for exploitation fail. In the mine workers' strike of 1902 the operators' spokesman—George F. Baer—said:

**"The rights and interests of the laboring man will be protected and cared for, not by the labor agitators, but by the Christian men to whom God in His infinite wisdom has given the control of the property interests of the country."**

This theory is the czarist and kaiser doctrine transferred to the industrial field. It is as strong today as in the days of the late Mr. Baer.

But like all other autocrats, the operators decline to answer questions. Just as did the czar, they profess a holy zeal in serving the people, but the people must not ask: "How about your profits?"

In the present anthracite strike Governor Pinchot suggests that the operators' books be examined to ascertain if higher wages can be paid.

The operators refuse to open their books.

These "trustees" are willing to serve, but their benefactors must not be inquisitive.

Some doubting Thomas may ask: "Are the 'trustees' fearful they will be caught cheating those whom they serve?"

## ATLANTIC COAST LINE HAS COMPANY "UNION"

Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 12.—The Atlantic Coast Line has rounded up its "free and independents" into a company "union." The railroad refused to grant a wage increase to its telegraphers and these members of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers suspended work.

The company "union" is aided by the railroad management to present its case before the United States railroad board.

Practically every town served by the Atlantic Coast Line is protesting against fishy services, and the railroad has placed an embargo on freight to Florida. The management has spent vast sums of money to build up a friendly public sentiment, but this expenditure can now be classed as a loss.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 12.—The silence of the anti-union Jacksonville Union, on the strike of Atlantic Coast Line telegraphers, is a feature of that movement. Heretofore this hard-boiled anti-union sheet has been vicious against strikers, but this strike is right before them. The public can not be fooled by propaganda. The Jacksonville Labor News presents this vivid picture of the situation:

"Handicapped by inexperienced and careless strikebreakers working under guard, with an embargo on fruit shipments, even to soap, with every sidetrack glutted with loaded cars, part of the main line converted to storage purposes, passenger trains 12 to 14 hours late, cattle dying in delayed trains, constant quitting of inexperienced strikebreakers, short, stations closed, the winter peak of the fruit industry at hand, the Atlantic Coast Line remains strikebound."

## WOMEN'S WAGE LAW WILL BE ATTACKED

Los Angeles, Dec. 12.—Low-wage employers in this city are preparing to attack the California women's minimum wage law.

This system has been declared unconstitutional by the United States supreme court, and local employers see a chance to reduce wages to a lower point than the law provides.

## ABSENTEE LANDLORDS EXPLOIT PORTO RICO

Washington, Dec. 12.—Conforming with a resolution passed by the last A. F. of L. convention, President Green has memorialized President Coolidge on conditions in Porto Rico.

The convention declared that Porto Rico is rapidly becoming the property of a few financial and business corporations that have taken possession of the island in violation of its organic act, passed by the United States congress.

As a result of this concentration by absentee landlords, the bulk of the profits produced by Porto Rican laborers are taken out of the island. The masses are left suffering in poverty and industrial oppression.

The convention declared in favor of a commission that will honestly investigate Porto Rico. This commission, it was stated, should be composed of men who will go to the heart of things and not—as several commissions have done in the past—accept courtesies and superficial official declarations as sufficient evidence upon which to base conclusions and recommendations.

## WILL FEDERAL WORKERS GET COMPENSATION?

Washington, Dec. 12.—Government-controlled workmen's compensation for the District of Columbia will again be urged in this congress. At the last session this was proposed by Congressman Fitzgerald but was contested by the nation's private insurance companies. These concerns conducted a wide propaganda because of the moral effect against them in the various states if congress favored taking profits out of the injury and death of wage earners.

A bill favored by the private companies was introduced by Congressman Underhill, and the fight will be reopened in this congress.

## COMPENSATION LAW UPHELD

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 12.—Superior Judge Dudley W. Windes has upheld the Arizona compensation law, affecting injury to that portion of the act which permits employes engaged in hazardous occupations to contribute to their own funds or to accept compensation or retain the right to sue under the constitution. The act is compulsory to all other employes covered by the act.

Judges Windes holds that this attempt to deprive a portion of the employes of the right of election offends the state constitution. The court, however, declines to annul the entire law.

## PROPOSED RAIL MERGER IS DEBATABLE SCHEME

New York, Dec. 12.—The uniting of this country's railroads into a few large systems is of doubtful value, according to Sir Henry Thornton, head of the Canadian National railways, a government-owned system.

He said it would be wise "to think twice" before acting on the suggestion of those who favor the regional grouping of railroads.

"The danger is," he said, "that you will get the railway system so big it will lose all human contacts.

"The success of the railroad must have human contact between the administration and the men in order to succeed. I am sure that is a certain point in growth the contact between the management and the men begins to diminish. Some of the smaller roads are most efficiently operated. That is because they concentrate on human relations."

Sir Henry said the feeling in England was that the grouping system has not been successful, and that persons whose opinion was respected were thinking about some form of nationalization of railroads.

In explaining the success of the Canadian National system in the last three years, Sir Henry said he believed he was due to excellent crops, the whole-hearted support and co-operation of employes, and the good will of the public, as well as increased efficiency.

The Canadian national system, he said, was an interesting experiment and demonstrated that state-owned railways can be furnished as good service as private roads, and in some ways better service.

## MARKETING WASTES FOUND BY SURVEY

Washington, Dec. 12.—For every dollar spent for furniture, 52 cents of the consumer's money goes for marketing expenses, and for every dollar spent for meat, 24 cents is for distribution costs. The wastage due to various states if congress favored taking profits out of the injury and death of wage earners.

These figures have been compiled by a committee representing all classes of business, at the recent trade extension conference in this city December 15 and 16.

Among so-called "services and conveniences" are the returned goods privilege, rest rooms, restaurants and beauty parlors, all of which effect distribution costs.

## STUDENTS UNIONIZED; LINE UP WITH A. F. OF L.

Denver, Dec. 12.—The Student Window Cleaners, an organization of Denver university students who are working their way through college by washing windows, has been unionized. The students will become a part of the recognized Building Service Employes' union, affiliated to the A. F. of L.

## OPERATORS WON'T REVEAL PROFITS; UNIONIST EXPOSES HIGH-COST PLOT

Philadelphia, Dec. 12.—Anthracite coal operators oppose Governor Pinchot's strike settlement because under it they would be forced to open their books," said Vice President Murray of the United Mine Workers.

"Not one outside their companies has seen the inside of these books. Even the United States coal commission, a part of the government, could not examine them," said Mr. Murray.

"The commission was obliged to content itself with statements prepared by the companies. What mysteries are hidden in these books that must be so jealously guarded? Under the Pinchot proposal, a commission would have access to the books. Therefore, the companies rejected the peace offer.

"The operators want to reduce wages so that if they take a notion to reduce coal prices their profits will not be impaired.

"From the start the mine workers have said that the operators can increase wages without increasing the price of coal. The operators say they can not do so. Governor Pinchot's new plan says to them: 'The miners say you can; you say you can not. Let a commission find whether you can or can not.' And the operators refuse. If they accept they have to permit the commission to examine their books. There is the rub. Their books are an airtight secret.

"In spite of the fact that the governor's peace plan failed to meet their hopes, the mine workers accepted the proposal as a means to end the strike and furnish coal to the public. The mine workers laid aside their demand for an increase in wages and accepted Governor Pinchot's proposal that there be no increase in prices but it could be granted without increasing the cost of coal. The operators rejected this proposal, because it would make it just that much more difficult for them to boost coal prices and pile up more profits.

"There was a six-months' strike of anthracite miners in 1922. The operators demanded a wage reduction, but the strike was settled and the men returned to work at the old scale. There was no increase in the labor cost of production, but the operators added $1 to $1.50 a ton to their selling price when the strike was over. And the public had to pay the bill.

"In 1923 there was a suspension that lasted two weeks. The miners won a 10 per cent increase, which added 42 cents to the cost of production. To absorb this 42 cents, the operators added $1 a ton to the selling price of coal and gave the public another skinning.

"With these two recent cases as precedents, it is appalling to anticipate what they would have to pay to the public this time. If they accepted Governor Pinchot's proposal their opportunity to put over another increase would be curtailed. That's why they do not like the plan."

## COMPANY "UNIONS" NOT TRADE UNIONS

By WILLIAM GREEN
President American Federation of Labor

People find it very difficult to break the bonds of primitive thought and rise above an intolerable policy which has long been followed. So it is with some employers. Their constitutional and fundamental objection to trade unions has led them to accept therefor company "unions" and employes' representation plans. Having sensed the workers' instinct for organization, they endeavor to satisfy it through the development of company-controlled organizations.

Company "unions" may resemble trade unions, but the difference is in substance rather than in form. The inspiration of the company "union" comes from without, that of the trade union comes from within.

The company "union" is restricted in its powers, and is dependent upon its vitality. The power of veto, of domination and of control lies within the employing group. Members of company "unions" cannot deal with management upon an equal basis.

Because of the insecure foundation upon which substitute for trade unionism rests, the company "unions" would collapse the will of the employer. The toleration of their existence must ever be contingent upon the maintenance of trade unions.

"The purpose of management which fosters company "unions" is clear. The motive behind their action is a selfish one. It represents the desire for autocratic control and managerial domination. They seek to maintain the form of collective bargaining without its virtues or its spirit of independence. They seek control rather than cooperation. They exert the power of compulsion in place of the spirit of voluntary cooperation of employes. They are attempting to build an industrial structure upon a wrong principle.

## LABOR'S PICTURE SHOWS PLAYING TO CAPACITY

Washington, Dec. 12.—"Continued success" summaries reports on labor's organizing and educational campaign that are being received by John J. Manning, secretary-treasurer of the A. F. of L. Union Label Trades department.

This report comes from the unit operating in southern Illinois: "We are showing to crowded houses every night and the picture is praised by everyone. In Benton we showed to 1,500 people and had to put on two shows. The manager of the theater said he never saw such a crowd in front of his theater."

Secretary Manning said similar reports are being received daily from the northwest and middle west. "These meetings," said Secretary Manning, "have awakened interest in what the trade union has accomplished, and also to the power of our organized dollars when we insist on the union label. It is significant that many persons heretofore antagonistic to our movement change their attitude when trade unionists cease spending their union-made dollars with foes of organized labor. It is gratifying how quickly our opponents can appreciate labor's position when labor stands for its principles."

## UPHOLD INDICTMENT AGAINST ALBERT FALL

Washington, Dec. 12.—The district court of appeals has upheld the criminal indictment against the Doheny, father and son, and Albert B. Fall, which were quashed by a lower court.

The effect of the decision will make it possible for the government to prosecute the accused on the direct charge of giving and taking a bribe, specifically involving the $100,000 in cash that Doheny, junior, took to Fall in the famous little black satchel. The government claims this money was connected with the oil lease that Fall, as secretary of the interior, assigned to an oil company controlled by Doheny, sr.

If the district court of appeals had decided against the government the indictments would have been outlawed by the statute of limitations.

## WEALTH PRODUCERS PAY HEAVIEST TAXES

New York, Dec. 12.—"In America today the earned income of the population bears the heaviest income tax," said Senator Reed of Pennsylvania, a member of the senate finance committee, in a speech before the annual convention of life insurance presidents.

Senator Reed said that idlers as producers are taxed while idlers escape through numerous loopholes and exemptions.

"There is no exemption available for the man who works for his income," said the senator. "There is no tax-free way of working a pick and shovel, while the system provides that he who inherits money has a dozen methods available. The tax situation is worthy of Alice in Wonderland, but not a great nation."

## WASTE IN COAL MINES REACHES HIGH FIGURE

Baltimore, Dec. 12.—At an open forum in this city John Brophy, president of the district No. 2, United Mine Workers, said that the waste of coal was "almost unbelievable." He said that 500,000,000 tons have been irrevocably and needlessly lost because of faults in the organization of that industry.

A difference of from 10 to 20 cents a ton has meant the leaving of millions of tons which never can be recovered because under the present competitive system that difference would have to be sacrificed by the mine owners," he said.

"The talk of our 'inexhaustible supply of coal' recalls that heard a few years ago about our timber resources. The effect of such loose talk will be more disastrous in the case of coal than it has been in the timber industry because in time we can grow more trees, while lost coal is gone forever.

"The accident rate in American mines is a crying shame. We have twice the number of fatalities per ton as in the British mines with half the number of miners employed. In the bituminous mines of America, alone about 500 men are killed annually and even more die in the anthracite mines."

## DAWES CALLED MUSSOLINI

Washington, Dec. 12.—Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi calls Vice President Dawes "the American Mussolini."

During the summer Dawes has campaigned for the open shop, and debate in the senate. Defenders of the present rules reply that the people become acquainted with important issues through full discussion rather than to have bills rushed through, as in the house. Dawes' argument is turned against him by reference to a recent speech in New York, in which he said that the Muscle Shoals bill, that would turn this water power over to private interests, was defeated in the senate because of too much talk.

### PRESSMEN ARBITRATE

Portland, Ore., Dec. 12.—Printing pressmen and newspaper managers are arbitrating a wage dispute.